

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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R 211513Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0607
INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 15526

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PU
SUBJECT: CALL BY GUINEA BISSAU AMBASSADOR

1. GUINEA BISSAU AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO HAIDARA CHERIF
MOHAMED LAMINE PAID COURTESY VISIT ON AMBASSADOR JUNE 21.
DISCUSSION MOSTLY GENERAL IN NATURE: AMB HAIDARA REQUEST-
ED BRIEF OVERVIEW OF M.E. NEGOTIATIONS SITUATION AND
PRESENTED SYNOPSIS OF GUINEA BISSAU INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL
POLICIES. FOLLOWING POINTS BY AMB HAIDARA MAY BE OF
INTEREST.

2. AMB HAIDARA NOTED THAT, WHILE GUINEA BISSAU HAD
RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE AID FROM SOCIALIST STATES DURING
PAIGC GUERRILLA STRUGGLE AGAINST PORTUGAL, MOSCOW
AND HER ALLIES WERE NOW CRITICIZING GUINEA BISSAU FOR
ALLOWING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIETS AND CUBANS TO
COOL IN FAVOR OF GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALL COUNTRIES,
PARTICULARLY FRANCE AND PORTUGAL. AMB HAIDARA COMMENTED
THAT ALTHOUGH PORTUGUESE PERSUADED OTHER NATO ALLIES DURING
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LIBERATION STRUGGLE THAT PAIGC COMMITTED TO MARXISM,
IN FACT INDEPENDENT GUINEA BISSAU PLACES ECONOMIC DE-
VELOPMENT FAR ABOVE IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS.
GUINEA BISSAU CONSIDERS ITSELF MODERATE BRIDGE BETWEEN
RADICAL REGIMES IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE AND PORTUGAL,
AND HAS OFTEN URGED BOTH NETO AND MACHEL TO MODERATE
POSITIONS. AMB HAIDARA VIEWED UPCOMING NETO-EANES MEETING

IN GUINEA BISSAU AS SYMBOLIC OF NEW GUINEA BISSAU EMPHASIS ON DIALOGUE INSTEAD OF CONFRONTATION. AMB HAIDARA REGRETTED THAT AFRICA OF LATE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN SUFFERING INCREASING INSTANCES OF CONFRONTATION. POSITION OF GUINEA BISSAU AT OAU KHARTOUM SUMMIT WILL BE TO DOWNPLAY CONFRONTATIONAL RHETORIC AND TO ATTEMPT NEGOTIATED (I.E., "AFRICAN") SOLUTIONS TO RECENT PROBLEMS. AMB HAIDARA CITED MIXED GUINEA BISSAU-SENEGALESE AND GUINEA BISSAU-GUINEA COMMISSIONS AS EXAMPLE OF HOW GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES COULD ACHIEVE PEACEFUL DIALOGUE ON POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE FRONTIER DEMARCATION ISSUES.

3. AMB HAIDARA WAS OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF GUINEA BISSAU FRONTIER PROBLEMS, PREDICTING THAT THORNY ISSUE OF ITALIAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION CONCESSION IN OFF-SHORE WATERS BETWEEN GUINEA BISSAU AND GUINEA WOULD BE PEACEFULLY RESOLVED BY MIXED COMMISSION. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT FULL UNITY WITH CAPE VERDE ISLANDS WOULD BE ACHIEVED IN "THREE YEARS, FIVE YEARS, TEN YEARS, IT IS NOT IMPORTANT SINCE IT WILL HAPPEN." GUINEA BISSAU HAVING SOME "MINOR" DIFFICULTY PERSUADING CAPE VERDIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS ON MAINLAND RATHER THAN TO EMIGRATE TO EUROPE OR UNITED STATES. ALTHOUGH HE MADE NO PITCH FOR INCREASED U.S. ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA BISSAU, AMB HAIDARA SEVERAL TIMES REPEATED THAT SOVIETS NOT HAPPY
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WITH MODERATE REGIME THAT HAS EMERGED FROM LIBERATION STRUGGLE. ALTHOUGH PORTUGUESE WARNED THAT PAIGC, AFTER LIBERATION, WOULD ESTABLISH SOVIET BASES IN GUINEA BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE, SOVIETS ARE NOW ASKING GUINEA BISSAU WHY PROTRACTED LIBERATION STRUGGLE WAS NECESSARY IF GUINEA BISSAU NOW MAINTAINS SUCH CLOSE TIES WITH PORTUGAL. AMB HAIDARA SUMMED UP THAT GUINEA BISSAU TOO SMALL AND UNDERDEVELOPED TO AFFORD ANY ENEMIES: SENEGAL, GUINEA OR ANY OF THE MAJOR POWERS. EILTS

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